

a liquid-absorbent panel placed upon said base sheet and defining a skin-facing side opposed to said non-skin-facing side; and

an elastically stretchable and substantially liquid-impervious skin-facing sheet attached to said skin-facing side so as to cover said panel,

said skin-facing sheet having:

fixed regions lying on said longitudinally opposite end regions and joined to said skin-facing side;

a longitudinally middle region extending between said fixed regions and normally biased to be spaced apart upward from said panel as said undergarment is curved in a longitudinal direction thereof with the skin-facing side inside; and

a pair of transversely opposite side regions curving transversely inward on both sides of said longitudinally middle region so as to define a pair of leg-holes and at least one opening formed in said longitudinally middle region,

a basis weight of said skin-facing sheet being higher in said transversely opposite side regions defining the leg-holes than a basis weight of a remaining region of said skin-facing sheet and a tensile stress of said skin-facing sheet is higher than a tensile stress of said transversely opposite side regions defining the leg-holes than in the remaining region.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein a basis weight of said skin-facing sheet is higher in a peripheral edge region of said at least one opening than a basis weight of the remaining region and a tensile stress of said skin-facing sheet is higher in said peripheral edge region of said at least one opening than a basis weight of the remaining region.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

a 6  
3. (Amended) The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein a bulging line extends on said skin-facing sheet in said longitudinal direction in a vicinity of a longitudinal center line of said skin-facing sheet and wherein said bulging line is formed by folding and overlapping a part of said skin-facing sheet and joining said part together.

Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

a 7  
4. (Amended) The disposable undergarment according to Claim 3, wherein said skin-facing sheet is folded back at least once along said transversely opposite side regions defining the leg-holes and said peripheral edge region of said at least one opening so as to increase the basis weight and the tensile stress of said skin-facing sheet in said transversely opposite side regions and in said peripheral edge region of said at least one opening.

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

a 8  
6. (Amended) The disposable undergarment according to Claim 5, wherein said leak-barrier sheets are elastically stretchable and wherein said skin-facing sheet and said leak-barrier sheets are attached under tension in said longitudinal direction to said skin-facing side of said undergarment.

Please amend Claim 7 as follows:

a 9  
7. (Amended) The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein said transversely opposite side regions of said skin-facing sheet defining the leg-holes lie inwardly of said transversely opposite side regions of said base sheet.